



## THE PAUL COVERDELL NATIONAL ACUTE STROKE REGISTRY

### WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM?

- Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States.
- An estimated 4.5 million Americans and their families live with the disabling effects of stroke.
- Thrombolytic medications can improve stroke outcomes, yet only about 3% of patients with stroke are being treated with the appropriate thrombolytic agent.
- Only a fraction of stroke patients are getting to the hospital in time to receive a treatment that may make the difference between disability and full recovery.

### WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

CDC established The Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry in 2001. CDC convened an Expert Panel that included representatives from organizations involved with delivering stroke care, including the BrainAttack Coalition, The National Stroke Association, the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, the National Institute for Neurologic Disorders and Stroke, and the Health Care Financing Administration, to recommend registry data elements. CDC funded four sites to design and test prototypes that will track the delivery of care to stroke patients. CDC supports an evaluation process to discern which distinct prototype components work best and in what type of environments. Such models could be used to guide state efforts to reduce death and disability from stroke and to improve the quality of life for stroke survivors.

### WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Each prototype will be tested in a statewide sample of hospitals that represent the diversity of facilities throughout the state offering acute care to stroke victims. The long-term goal is to establish statewide registries nationally, similar to CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries, to reduce death and disability associated with stroke and to improve quality of life among stroke survivors. CDC will sponsor a National Stroke Association workshop for state health departments and other key partners in May 2002 to develop a national stroke prevention plan.

*For information on this and other CDC programs, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/programs>*

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